

Message Text

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20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 031745Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2663

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLIAISON OFFICE PEKING

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1505

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR FOR POLAD FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TS, AG

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN ALLEGATION ON ALGERIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM
CHINA

REF: TUNIS 4037

1. TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER

NOUIRA'S STATEMENT (PARA 6 REF) TO EFFECT THAT ALGERIANS HAVE
"ALREADY PURCHASED ARMS FROM CHINA" IS ASSESSED BY US AS
FALSE, WHETHER DELIBERATELY SO OR AS A RESULT OF NOUIRA
HAVG BEEN MISINFORMED.

2. SINCE ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE IN 1962, ALL RPT ALL LETHAL
ARMAMENTS ACQUIRED BY THE ALGERIAN MILITARY HAVE COME FROM
THE USSR. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THERE IS ANOTHER
NEW, MAJOR ARMS DEAL WITH THE USSR IN THE OFFING. N
ADDITION, WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS OF THE ALGERIANS SEEKING ARMS
ELSEWHERE, NOTABLY FROM FRANCE AND FROM SWEDEN, BUT WE HAVE
NO INDICATTION THAT CHINA IS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN ARMAMENTS
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SUPPLY HERE.

3. SOME SIX MONTHS AGO EMBOFF DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH
CHINSE MILITARY ATTACHE HERE. LATTER SAID FIRMLY THAT
CHINA INVOLVED IN NO ARMS SUPPLY TO ALGERIA, AND HAD NO
INTENTION OF BECOMING SO INVOLVED. WHILE IT CONCEIVABLE THAT
THIS POLICY HAS CHANGED IN THE INTERIM, WE HAVE NO INDICATION
THAT THIS IS THE CASE.PARKER

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NNN

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